UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/527
2 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 MAY 1994 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of His Excellency Ali Hassan Mwinyi, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, dated 1 May 1994 on the situation in Rwanda.

I should be grateful if you would have the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ulli K. MWAMBULUKUTU
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex

Talking notes by H.E. President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, to the group of ambassadors and high commissioners of the members of the United Nations Security Council and Observers to Rwanda peace talks

State House, 1 May 1994

I wish to thank you most sincerely for attending this meeting at short notice and on the weekend.

2. I have called you here this morning to express our grave concern and to exchange views on what to do concerning the continuing massacres in Rwanda.

3. The last three weeks have been particularly tragic for Rwanda and the subregion. As you know, the plane crash that resulted in the deaths of Presidents Habyarimana of Rwanda and Ntayamira of Burundi, set off a torrent of wanton massacres of innocent civilians.

4. Rwanda has since been bleeding and the region and Africa, as a whole, have been tormented by cries of innocent orphans, babies, women, the elderly and the helpless in general.

5. The last few days have witnessed a human chain of refugees crossing into Tanzania. As the counting continues, Tanzania expects to be home to about 500,000 new refugees from Rwanda, let alone a similar number my country has received from Burundi. It is a human tragedy of the highest magnitude; it is an affront to humanity.

6. Yet, at the height of the conflict in Rwanda and in the face of the horrors of the massacres, and as if the tragedy was of no concern to the international community, the United Nations Security Council passed resolution 912, downgrading the size of the UNAMIR from 2,500 to 270. This was one of the most unfortunate decisions by the United Nations Security Council and stands in sharp contrast to the peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations elsewhere.

7. Your Excellencies, amid all these disappointments from the United Nations, the countries of the region have continued to search for peace in Rwanda. As you know, last week we tried to arrange for peace talks in Arusha. These talks could not take place as the Representatives of the Interim Government of Rwanda failed to show up. The Rwanda Patriotic Front Representative also was not ready to negotiate.

8. However, after tireless consultations with neighbouring States and the parties to the conflict in Rwanda, I am happy to announce that both the Interim Government of Rwanda and the Rwanda Patriotic Front have agreed to attend peace talks in Arusha next Tuesday.

9. I wish to ask for your support at this crucial hour of tragedy in Rwanda.

10. Tanzania believes that failure to implement the Arusha Peace Agreement signed in Arusha last year is what has led Rwanda to the present tragedy.

11. Tanzania strongly believes that:

(1) The tragedy in Rwanda has once again demonstrated that traditional United Nations peace-keeping methods have outlived their utility. Where the very survival of humanity is at stake, where the outbreak and level of violence reaches enormous proportions to threaten the very fabric of human civilization and where ethnic conflicts might threaten international peace, the United Nations must be able to act promptly and decisively, including the possibility of stopping arms flow into Rwanda;

(2) We must have a cease-fire in Rwanda as soon as possible;

(3) Massacres must stop and any type of ethnic cleansing in Rwanda must stop. Tanzania calls upon the United Nations to take firm action to stop senseless killings;

(4) Tanzania wishes to express full support for the statement issued by the OAU Secretary General, Dr. Salim, calling for the United Nations to take firmer action on Rwanda and to increase the size of the peace-keeping force in that country;

(5) We also strongly support the most recent request of the United Nations Secretary-General to the United Nations Security Council calling for a review of resolution 912 which downsized the United Nations force in Rwanda, and we find the statement of the President of the Security Council in this regard most encouraging;

(6) Tanzania wishes to draw the attention of the United Nations and the international community at large to the urgency of the situation in Rwanda and the obligation of the international community -

(a) To arrange for emergency relief for internally displaced persons in Rwanda;

(b) To provide assistance to refugees who have crossed into Tanzania. This country alone is unable to handle this human tragedy;

12. Your Excellencies, the human family of nations must not only condemn the tragedy in Rwanda. It must also seek to change the situation in such a way that a more peaceful and dignified Rwanda emerges. That new Rwanda, in which everyone can live in peace, awaits us. That Rwanda and the subregion beckons to us. It is a resolution of the conflict we must strive to achieve.

I wish to thank you.